

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation application from pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/227,912 filed August 26, 2002 (the "parent application"), now U.S. Patent No. 6,620,947. The parent application, originally filed with six claims—all of which were allowed in the grandparent application now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,441,196—now stands allowed with two claims. By the present preliminary amendment the originally filed six claims of the parent application are cancelled and new claims 7-11 are added. Conforming amendments to the specification's Title, Related Applications section, and Abstract of the Disclosure are also effected.

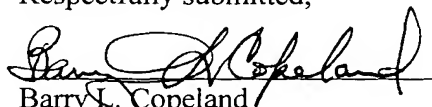
The original six claims of the parent application were directed to processes for the synthesis of 11-oxa prostaglandin analogues. As described in the specification beginning at page 6, line 9, more efficient production of a certain intermediate alcohol (XV) can be achieved using (-)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane or (+)-*B*-chlorodiisopinocampheylborane depending on which diastereomer of the alcohol XV is desired.

Newly added claim 7 is directed to a method of selectively reducing the enone of generic formula XIV to the corresponding alcohol XV using one of these preferred reducing agents. Newly added dependent claim 8 specifies the (-) enantiomer of the reducing agent; and newly added dependent claim 9 is directed to the conversion of the enone species, compound 14 (described at page 12 (schematic) and page 17, lines 25-26) to the alcohol species, compound 15 (described at page 12 (schematic) and page 18, lines 25-26).

Newly added claim 10 incorporates the preferred reducing agents into the synthetic process at step (m). Because of the use of the selective reducing agent at step (m), the end product will not be racemic, and the resolution step (r) of the originally filed process claim has therefore been omitted. Newly added dependent claim 11 simply specifies the enone and alcohol species described above with respect to claim 9.

No new matter has been added. For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered and favorably considered by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry L. Copeland

Reg. No. 34,802

Telephone No. 817/551-4322

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Date

Address for Correspondence:

Alcon Research, Ltd.

6201 South Freeway (Q)-148

Fort Worth, Texas 76134-2099

Telefax: 817/551-4610